



Rural District of Maidstone

---

Annual Report for the Year, 1967

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE  
RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F. H. M. DUMMER,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



MO. H. Mandstone RDC I  
Annual Report 1967.

---

Miss E. M. Wright E 203. - 5 MAY 1970

- 6 MAY



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29780317>

RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

---

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1967

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F.H.M. DUMMER,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee  
(As at 1st January, 1967)

Chairman

Colonel H.M. Allfrey

Vice-Chairman

J.L. Short

Members

K.C. Banks  
Dr. R.D. Bulbrook  
P.A.E. Devenish  
A.E. Fullagar  
D.V. Gladdish  
Mrs. A. Granycome  
J.A.R. Hall

Mrs. N.D. Herbert  
Mrs. H.A. Ireland-Blackburne  
T.W. Kemsley  
E.E.L. Kimber  
P. Morphett  
C.S. Pipe  
T.J. Thompson

Public Health Officers of the Rural District Council :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

Dr. F.H.M. Dummer,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

Dr. J.T. Cecil,  
M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

G.W. White,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,  
Public Health Inspectors'  
Certificate,  
Certificate of Inspector of  
Meat and Other Foods, and  
Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.

FIRST ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

F.O. Elliott,  
M.A.P.H.I.,  
Public Health Inspectors'  
Certificate,  
Certificate of Inspector of  
Meat and Other Foods.

SECOND ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

J. Barrow,  
M.A.P.H.I.,  
Public Health Inspectors'  
Certificate,  
Certificate of Inspector of  
Meat and Other Foods.

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

I.R. Russell.

CLEANSING FOREMAN :

A.E. Wallace.

RODENT OPERATOR :

T. Curties.

CLERKS TO THE DEPARTMENT :

Miss D. Fuller.  
Miss A.M. Humphrey.

SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH : Miss H. Wood.





RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

Central Health Department,  
13, Tonbridge Road,  
Maidstone.

Telephone : Maidstone 54072

Public Health Department,  
26, Tonbridge Road,  
Maidstone.

Telephone : Maidstone 56871

To: The Chairman and Members of Maidstone Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eleventh Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District of Maidstone.

On all indices by which we judge the health of a district, those appertaining to Maidstone Rural District show the health of the area to be good. You have, for example, a birth rate much higher than the national average and higher than that of any of the surrounding districts; a death rate lower than the national and lower than any of your neighbours; a tuberculosis mortality rate which is equal to that of the country as a whole; and an infantile mortality rate which has reached a new low record for your district and is incomparably lower than that of any of your neighbours or the national average; so one can say with a certain amount of confidence that as an area Maidstone Rural District shows no untoward trends towards ill health.

This is all very true with one unfortunate exception and that is the mortality of cancer of the lung. This year you have a mortality of 0.67 per thousand of the population which is higher than the national average and in excess of the figure obtaining in the surrounding districts.

For all cancers, you have, in 1967, had a mortality of 58 which is only one less than the greatest number yet recorded in your district, i.e. 59 in 1966. Of these 58 people who died of cancer, 18 died of cancer of the lung, an increase of 6 over last year's figure; 3 more women died of cancer of the breast compared with 1966; and 2 more women died of cancer of the uterus. If there is a "bright" side to this picture, it is that once again there has been no gross infringement into the later age groups which are suffering the major onslaughts from cancer.

Maybe sometime in the future the trends which I have indicated will be more meaningful than they are now. All I can say at the moment is that there is only one certain way of affecting the global picture as far as cancer of the lung and bronchus is concerned, and that is to reduce the number of heavy cigarette smokers. There are many theories about the origin and spread of cancer, but I do not think there is any common cancer which is more obviously related to a specific cause than cancer of the lung and heavy cigarette smoking.



The propaganda which has been distributed both locally and nationally on this problem of cancer of the lung and the tendency for it to show an increasing mortality in women has not had a great impact; indeed every year, more and more tobacco is smoked in this country and of course the death rate from cancer of the lung is rising accordingly.

I would have thought that if people are not impressed by the fact that cancer of the lung is a mortal illness - although it is at the moment not so very common - they would be impressed by the fact that heavy cigarette smoking has a very adverse effect on bronchitis and one has only to look around this district to see many, many bronchitics. If only for this reason alone and not for the obvious cancer relationship, one would have thought that a reduction in heavy cigarette smoking would make a realistic appeal to everyone.

I would like to bring to your notice the report on tuberculosis in your district. The number of new cases arising is very small indeed. This contrasts very sharply with the kind of picture which one saw only a decade or so ago.

This report contains as usual an account of the work of the Public Health Department as a whole, with a concentration on the environmental aspects of health as it affects your district.

The work "routine" is one which is lightly applied so very often to the work of Local Authorities, but I think you will agree when you read this report that although work may be largely of a routine nature in the Public Health Department, the basic importance of it cannot be doubted. The account in the pages which follow covers a very wide and varied field of public health, every little bit of which fits into a pattern which goes to make up the full enjoyment of the amenities of modern living. We would like to be able to extend those amenities. For example, we would like to be able to say that when a cesspool needed emptying or when refuse needed collection we could guarantee that this would be done without the slightest delay. Unfortunately, we are in no such position, entirely due to the necessary restrictions which must be placed on expenditure and the difficulty of recruiting labour in any field of manual work.

This year there has been once again an extension of the paper sack collection of household refuse and, as Mr. Hite has explained before to the Public Health Committee, this has been the main contributing factor enabling the service to be maintained without the employment of additional labour.





I would direct your attention to the whole of the section on "Refuse and Public Cleansing Services" from page 23 onwards, because this is very often a public service much misunderstood and much maligned. Certainly it requires some understanding to appreciate the difficulties and I hope that in those pages you will see precisely what is being done to maintain this essential service.

As always, the year has been a busy one for the Public Health Inspectorate and I am indebted to Mr. White for his willing co-operation in the work of the Health Department. Your other two Inspectors, Mr. Elliott and Mr. Barrow have also carried out eminently satisfactory work and I am grateful to them for their maintained interest and endeavour. The smooth working of the office and the integration of the several sections of the work has been greatly assisted by the efficiency of the clerical staff, Miss Fuller and Miss Humphrey.

The Public Health Committee and the Council as a whole have always shown the deepest interest in Public Health and this interest has not flagged throughout the year.

Our work must of necessity bring us into close contact with the other Senior Officers of the Council and from them all we have had first-class co-operation. It is a pleasure for me to record my gratitude to them in this Report.

I have the Honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F.H.M. DUMMER

Medical Officer of Health.

9th May, 1968



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .. .. .	34,487
Estimated resident population (1967) .. ..	26,490
Number of inhabited houses (according to rate books) at the end of 1967 .. .. .	8,947
Rateable value at the end of 1967 .. .. .	£859,365
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£3,300

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births .. .. .	291	283	574
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..	crude		21.66
	corrected		23.39
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5.74
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stillbirths .. .. .	1	3	4
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births			6.92
Total live and still births .. ..	292	286	578
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) ..	-	3	3
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			5.22
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			5.54
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			3.48
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			3.48
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)			8.65
Maternal mortality (including abortion) .. ..	..	..	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .. ..	..	..	-
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths .. .. .	164	151	315
Death rate per 1,000 population .. ..	crude		11.85
	corrected		8.88
Death rate for England and Wales .. ..			11.2





## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### School Health Service

The School Health Service with school inspections and clinics, the Maternity and Child Welfare Service and the Domiciliary Mid-wifery Service, are now administered by the Kent County Council and are controlled by the County Medical Officer.

### Hospitals

The general hospitals in the area are now administered by one Central Kent Hospital Management Committee, and Preston Hall Hospital Management Committee has been merged in that body. There are, of course, in addition separate Management Committees for Oakwood Hospital and Leybourne Grange Hospital.

The hospitals in general use are Linton Hospital, the West Kent General Hospital, Fant Lane Hospital, the Kent County Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital and Preston Hall Hospital. Use is also made of Lenham Chest Hospital and the hospitals covered by the Tunbridge Wells Group including, particularly Pembury Hospital and the Kent & Sussex Hospital at Tunbridge Wells.

There is now no infectious diseases hospital in this area, and cases in the meantime have to be sent primarily to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, which entails a fairly long journey. Although representation has been made to the Regional Hospital Board on this question, there is very little likelihood of improved facilities for infectious diseases being available for this area before the new district hospital is built in the Maidstone area. This will, it is understood, include a wing for infectious diseases.

Since the publication by the Ministry of Health in 1962 of "A Hospital Plan for England and Wales", many discussions have taken place on local requirements and at the present time the whole subject is under continuous review. It has, however, been decided to support the Minister of Health's proposal that the site of the new district hospital should be Preston Hall.

### Domestic Help Service

This service is administered by the County Council and is of great value in providing care for aged and disabled patients and thus relieving pressure on the available hospital beds. I often find that by the judicious use of this service, elderly people are given the advantage of essential domestic help, thereby tiding them over a difficulty which, in other circumstances, would undoubtedly require hospitalisation.



INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

ANALYSIS IN AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-45	46-65	66 & over	TOTAL
Scarlet fever	-	3	3	10	1	1	-	-	-	18
Whooping cough	2	4	3	7	1	1	-	-	-	18
Measles	8	98	126	153	7	1	1	-	-	394
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	2	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	6
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	11	107	134	171	9	5	3	2	-	442

The number of notified infectious diseases rose very considerably in 1967 and this was due entirely to an increase in the incidence of measles. This increase was over 3-fold compared with 1966. The number of cases of whooping cough fell to a half of the previous year's figure, but there was a slight increase in the number of cases of Sonne dysentery.

No unusual outbreak of infectious disease occurred during the year, and once again there were no cases of diphtheria, smallpox or poliomyelitis.





INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTALS
Scarlet fever	1	4	10	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	18
Whooping cough	3	2	4	1	-	4	-	1	-	1	1	1	18
Measles	44	70	164	52	35	9	16	2	1	1	-	-	394
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	48	79	179	56	35	15	17	3	3	2	3	2	442



### POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following table shows the poliomyelitis vaccination figures for 1967 based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health.

YEAR	PRIMARY	REINFORCING
1967	133	-
1966	354	-
1965	40	-
1964	8	-
1963	5	31
1960 - 1962	13	269
1951 - 1959	1	4
TOTALS	554	304

During the year, 544 persons completed an oral course of poliomyelitis vaccine, and another 304 had reinforcing doses. This latter figure shows a rise of about 20 from 1966. In all, 10,821 persons in the Rural District have now had a complete course of vaccine.

The scheme is still restricted to persons up to the age of 40 years, but even allowing for this there is a large number who could still take advantage of this vaccination.

I would remind the public that poliomyelitis vaccination is free and has no after-effects.





### IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation figures for 1967, based on the return sent to the Ministry of Health.

Year of Birth	Primary		Reinforcing	
	Triple	Diph/Tet	Triple	Diph/Tet
1967	217	31	-	-
1966	286	16	2	2
1965	21	1	160	72
1964	4	-	66	15
1963	-	-	10	15
1960 - 1962	3	2	75	203
1951 - 1959	1	-	2	9
TOTALS	532	50	315	316

There was a slight decrease in 1967 in the number of children immunised primarily; the total of 582 is 24 less than the previous year. There has, however, been a slight increase in the number of reinforcing doses given.

The above table deals with the triple immunisation which includes protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and also with the dual immunisation against tetanus and diphtheria only.



### SMALLPOX VACCINATION

The following table shows the smallpox vaccination figures for 1967, based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Owing to the new arrangements made by Kent County Council, the following figures are the only statistics now available on smallpox vaccination.

PRIMARY VACCINATION 1 YEAR	RE-VACCINATION SCHOOL AGE BUT UNDER 8 YEARS
356	3

The records of vaccinations supplied now by the County Council are only those which apply to primary vaccinations carried out under the County Council's own arrangements, and re-vaccinations carried out between the ages of 5 and 8 years.

I am therefore not in a position to know the total numbers in either category. The statistics, although they are submitted to you, are in my opinion not of much value, but they are presented to you merely because they are a return which is sent to me by the County Medical Officer.

I would, however, stress that it is of value to have infants vaccinated against smallpox, and for people who are going abroad to maintain their state of protection by re-vaccination at intervals of three years.

In 1967 there has been a slight drop in the number of primary vaccinations carried out.

It is important to remember that restrictions on entry into foreign countries very often come into operation at extremely short notice. It is therefore of benefit to all travellers abroad to ensure that they have valid International Certificates of Vaccination, and this means that the certificate must bear a date not more than three years from the date of the proposed journey.



# TUBERCULOSIS

I am indebted to Dr. D.L. Pugh, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the following details of the number of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis examined during the year, and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. These figures related to the area of the Chest Clinic, which corresponds with the area of the four authorities, Maidstone Borough, Maidstone R.D., Hollingbourn R.D., and Malling R.D.

- (a) Number of contacts seen during 1967, of newly notified cases of tuberculosis .. .. 211
- (b) Number of contacts, seen during 1967, of cases notified prior to 1967 .. .. 579
- (c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis Nil
- (d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis Nil

-----

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	1	-	1	1	-	-	-

The table above indicates the very satisfactory position in which only 5 new cases of tuberculosis were recorded in your district during the year.





# CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer in the Maidstone Rural District during the past ten years is given below :-

1958	..	..	..	42
1959	..	..	..	47
1960	..	..	..	51
1961	..	..	..	52
1962	..	..	..	45
1963	..	..	..	49
1964	..	..	..	50
1965	..	..	..	54
1966	..	..	..	59
1967	..	..	..	58

Deaths from cancer in 1967, distributed according to sites :-

Site	Male	Female	Total
Cancer of stomach	4	-	4
Cancer of lung, bronchus	15	3	18
Cancer of breast	-	6	6
Cancer of uterus	-	3	3
Other sites	18	9	27
TOTALS	37	21	58

Deaths from cancer in 1967, distributed according to age groups :-

Age Groups	Male	Female
0 - 4	-	-
5 - 14	-	-
15 - 24	-	-
25 - 34	-	-
35 - 44	-	3
45 - 54	2	1
55 - 64	13	7
65 - 74	11	4
75 and over	11	6
TOTALS	37	21





### FOOD POISONING

During 1967 three cases of food poisoning were formally notified. One further case was otherwise ascertained. In all, four families were involved. One of those cases, an instance of *Salmonella typhi-murium* had been contracted abroad.

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953

It was not necessary during the year to issue any restrictive Notices under these Regulations in order to prevent the spread of infection through the handling of food.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

During the year one person was admitted to hospital in pursuance of a Magistrate's Order obtained under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts. This was an elderly man of 80 years who was living on his own and was suffering from grave chronic disease. He was admitted to Linton Hospital but was finally transferred to another hospital where he died seven months later.



INFANT MORTALITY, 1967

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Acute bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital abnormalities	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
TOTALS	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3

I reported in 1966 that the infantile mortality was the lowest yet recorded in your district at a rate of 9.2 per thousand total live births. This year, 1967, the figure fell to an even lower level with a total of only three infant deaths and an infantile mortality rate of 5.22 per thousand live births. This is very considerably lower than the figure for England and Wales at 18.3.

On an analysis of the deaths in the table above, you will see that two out of the three were in fact congenital abnormalities which were unavoidable, both infants dying in less than seven days.

I should like to be able to report that the figures for 1967 indicated a set trend. I am, however, unable to do this with any guarantee, because we have now got down to such a small figure that any slight difference in them will reflect itself inordinately in the actual mortality rate.



TOTAL DEATHS, 1967

Cause	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	2	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	18	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	1
16. Diabetes	4	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	45
18. Coronary disease, angina	35	22
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
20. Other heart disease	14	15
21. Other circulatory disease	4	8
22. Influenza	-	1
23. Pneumonia	6	7
24. Bronchitis	11	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	18
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	-
34. All other accidents	4	1
35. Suicide	2	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
TOTALS	164	151





DEATHS PER MONTH IN EACH PARISH

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTALS
Barming	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Bearsted	5	2	6	4	4	2	1	3	4	4	5	6	46
Boughton Monchelsea	1	-	5	2	2	-	1	2	-	1	1	2	18
Coxheath	3	3	3	1	-	5	-	-	1	3	1	2	22
Linton Hospital	15	6	2	10	8	6	4	3	5	3	2	9	73
East Farleigh	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	-	13
West Farleigh	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	2	7
Hunton	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Linton	1	2	1	2	-	1	1	-	1	2	1	1	13
Loose	2	5	-	3	4	1	3	1	-	2	2	2	25
Marden	2	-	2	5	3	3	1	1	2	2	5	5	30
Nettlestead	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	5
Otham	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Staplehurst	1	2	2	2	2	3	-	-	2	2	3	5	25
Teston	3	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	9
Yalding	1	2	1	1	-	5	-	-	2	-	2	1	14
TOTALS	42	27	28	31	25	29	14	11	21	22	27	38	315





## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

The Senior Public Health Inspector has furnished the following details of work which comes under his direct day to day control.

The year under report produced no unusual problems and, as in recent years, the work of the department has been devoted to the wide aspects of preventative environmental health. Once again the population of the district has increased considerably and, as one might expect, this has brought with it additional work for the department, both on the technical and administrative sides. In consequence, a great deal of time has had to be devoted to investigating and answering queries from the public and these details are not shown in the following statistics. Similarly, additional legislation, such as the new Civic Amenities Act, has placed further duties on an already overburdened clerical staff. There is very little doubt that, should this trend continue, serious thought will have to be given to the provision of additional clerical staff.

Our Student Public Health Inspector is now in the second year of this training with the department and is making satisfactory progress. Here again additional time has to be devoted to his instruction by the public health inspectorate.

Further comment on individual aspects of departmental work are made under their respective headings.



## WATER SUPPLIES

There were no complaints concerning the quality of water supply during the year 1967 and there is every indication that the supply has been satisfactory in quantity. As in previous years, there still remains a small number of properties not connected to a mains supply provided by the Mid Kent Water Company or the Maidstone Waterworks Company. In each instance this is due entirely to the isolated nature of the properties concerned.

Sampling of water supply to the area continues to be carried out as a routine measure by the Water Companies involved, samples being obtained at the source of supply and point of distribution. All sources of supply are outside the Maidstone Rural District with the exception of the East Farleigh Pumping Station. Samples are being taken of the raw water and water following treatment prior to supply, these samples being submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analyses. A typical result from a chemical analysis is as follows:-

### Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per million)

Solids in Solution	(Dried at 180°C)	..	..	240
Solids in Solution	after ignition	..	..	230
Chlorides as Chlorine	.. ..	..	..	35
Carbonate Hardness	as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	..	..	120
Non-Carbonate Hardness	as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	..	..	10
Total Hardness	as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	..	..	130
Total Alkalinity	as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	..	..	120
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	.. ..	..	..	0.008
Albuminoid Nitrogen	.. ..	..	..	Not detected
Nitrate Nitrogen	.. ..	..	..	Not detected
Nitrite Nitrogen	.. ..	..	..	Not detected
Oxygen Absorbed in 15 minutes at 27°C	.. ..	..	..	0.16
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	.. ..	..	..	0.32
Fluoride - Iron	.. ..	..	..	Not detected
Toxic Metals - Manganese	.. ..	..	..	Not detected

Opinion : No deposit or discolouration after 7 days standing.

Additional routine water samples are also collected by the Public Health Department, these samples being obtained from the supply provided by the Water Companies' mains. Five bacteriological and three chemical samples were taken and in each case proved to be satisfactory.



Examination of Water Supplies during the year :-

	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Statutory supply undertakings	5	5	-	3	3	-
Private sources pipe to dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other private sources	-	-	-	-	-	-





The following table, supplied by the Water Companies concerned, gives indication of (a) the number of dwelling houses and (b) the estimated number of the population supplied from public water mains :-

Parish	Houses Supplied (a)	Estimated Population (b)
Barming	529	1,535
Bearsted	1,587	4,690
Boughton Monchelsea	526	1,470
Coxheath	995	3,315
East Farleigh	428	1,290
West Farleigh	151	480
Hunton	175	555
Linton	185	540
Loose	696	2,110
Marden	848	2,580
Nettlestead	194	740
Otham	112	365
Staplehurst	1,145	3,500
Teston	215	670
Yalding	888	2,650



Information received from the Water Companies indicates that they have been involved in the laying of 7,596 yards of new water mains to additional properties within the area. Indication of the size of mains laid is contained in the following table :-

Parish	Yards	Size	Water Company
Barming	158	3"	Maidstone Waterworks Company
"	216	4"	" " "
"	300	6"	" " "
East Farleigh	112	4"	" " "
Loose	3	3"	" " "
"	176	6"	" " "
Bearsted	358	3"	Mid Kent Water Company
Boughton Mon.	7	3"	" " " "
" "	1,261	4"	" " " "
Marden	48	3"	" " " "
"	2,068	4"	" " " "
Nettlestead	57	4"	" " " "
Staplehurst	113	2"	" " " "
"	661	3"	" " " "
"	1,175	4"	" " " "
"	883	6"	" " " "

#### The Fluoride Content of Water Supplies

The fluoride content is negligible and is less than 0.1 parts per million.

#### Swimming Baths

Schools situated within the parishes of Loose, Staplehurst and Marden are provided with swimming pools for use by children. A check on the bacteriological content of these pools is made during their use and 15 samples were taken as a routine precautionary measure. In only 1 instance was an unsatisfactory result obtained, but further follow-up samples of this same pool proved satisfactory.



## REFUSE AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

The following is a general report on both services. Difficulties in obtaining labour to maintain the establishment has again proved to be a most acute problem. It was, therefore, not without difficulty that a regular service acceptable to the public was maintained. As has been mentioned elsewhere in the report, the population of the district has increased considerably and this has not helped a difficult situation. Undoubtedly a further extension of the paper sack refuse collection system has been the main contributing factor which has enabled the service to be maintained without the employment of additional labour.

To give a broad outline of the situation, the following data is given for information purposes :-

### Manpower

The establishment in connection with the Public Cleansing Services consists of 30 men employed as follows :-

- 23 men on refuse collection
- 1 tractor driver engaged on the refuse tip
- 6 men on cesspool emptying.

### Labour Turnover

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Employed during the year	19	26	21
Employees leaving during the year	17	27	20
<u>Holidays</u>	160 days	233 days	286 days
<u>Sickness</u>	242 days	430 days	351 days
<u>Absenteeism</u>	55 days	36 days	87 days

The total days lost are obviously considerable and it will be noted that the total days relating to absenteeism were higher than in previous years. The fact that unauthorised absenteeism results in loss of pay does not seem to be a deterrent and it must be agreed that the Council owes its thanks for the maintenance of the services to the more reliable and conscientious members of the labour force.

### Abandoned Vehicles

Removal of abandoned vehicles was dealt with under the Removal of Vehicles (England and Wales) Regulations, 1961, which is now replaced by the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations, 1968.

During the year 11 vehicles were dealt with, but it is obvious that the main source of this problem can be related to the itinerant traveller/scrap metal merchant dumping the unsaleable portions of vehicles by the roadside or in woods. The present indication is that the problem will continue to arise even though facilities are provided for the public to dispose of old vehicles on the Council's refuse tip. Perhaps the only real solution is for the local authority to make adequate provision for the collection of vehicles from the individual on request and free of charge. However, the cost of providing suitable equipment to deal with this problem would be considerable and over and above the expense incurred at the present time to effect clearance.







## Bulky Domestic, Industrial and Commercial Refuse

During the year special collections have been made of domestic bulky refuse. Where appropriate, charges have been made and as a result, an income of £96. 3. 0. has been received. The recent recommendations of the Working Party on the collection of this type of refuse suggest that collections be made free. This matter of policy will need to be decided by the Council, but it must not be overlooked that costs incurred will be considerable as collection often has to take place in the evening or on Saturday. It does appear that the demand is increasing in this respect and it may well be a necessity, in the not too distant future, to consider the allocation of a vehicle and labour for this specific task which could then be carried out within the normal working week.

Disposal facilities for refuse from industrial and commercial concerns are afforded at the Laddingford Tip. The firms involved are dealt with on a contract basis and the income from this source amounts to £966.

### Refuse Disposal

Disposal of all types of refuse was carried out in the Laddingford area by the controlled tipping method. During the year the tracked Drott Excavator was replaced by the 4-wheel drive Hough H.30 International. The appearance of the tip is satisfactory and effective control has been maintained. It does appear, at this early stage, that the expenditure on maintenance and labour will not be as high as that previously incurred with the Drott type of vehicle.

### Cesspool Emptying

As in recent years, the demands upon the available equipment have been considerable. It has not always been possible to effect clearance as soon as one would have liked, but with few exceptions clearance has taken place within 14 days of receiving a request.

A review of the service and the possibility of improvement were investigated by the Council and, as a result, an additional tanker has been ordered. It is anticipated that, with its arrival during the middle of 1968, improvements can then be made.

### Vehicles

Cleansing and refuse vehicles are garaged at the Coxheath Depot (with the exception of the 2 vans used by the Cleansing Foreman and the Rodent Operator and the Hough Excavator which is stationed at the Laddingford Tip). The vehicles garaged at Coxheath are as follows :-

- 7 refuse collection vehicles (including 1 spare)
- 4 cesspool emptying vehicles (including 1 spare)

### Depot

The existing facilities for garaging and maintenance are inadequate, with several vehicles having to stand in the open. Plans for the re-building of the Depot have been considered for some time and one looks forward to the day when modern and efficient facilities are made available.

### Drainage and Sanitation

Enlargement of the Staplehurst Disposal Works was completed during the year and the joint scheme between this authority and Hollingbourn R.D.C. in Bearsted and Thurnham was commenced.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

### HOUSING

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	197
Number of other visits under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	120
Number of drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	76
Number of drainage visits	..	..	..	..	..	639
Number of visits made in respect of Improvement Grants and Building Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	853

### FOOD AND WATER

Number of Slaughterhouse and meat inspection visits	..	..	..	..	..	248
Number of visits re Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	29
Number of visits re Milk and Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of visits re Food and Drugs Act	..	..	..	..	..	722

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of visits re Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	134
---	----	----	----	----	----	-----

### GENERAL - PUBLIC HEALTH

Number of visits under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	417
Refuse Disposal and Collection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,382
Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	329
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	128
Hop Pickers' Camps	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Factories Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	177
Removal of Vehicles (England and Wales) Regulations, 1961	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
Diseases of Animals and Waste Food Order Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Verminous premises visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Interview with Builders, Architects, Owners, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	265
Collection and delivery of samples to Public Health Laboratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Revisits to premises under notice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	191
Noise Abatement Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
National Assistance Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,710





## GENERAL STATISTICS

### HOUSING

Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Notices completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	54

### HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS

Walls and ceilings	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Rising and penetrating dampness remedied				..	..	..	24
Repairs to external walls	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Repairs to defective windows and doors				..	..	..	18
Chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
General repairs to roofs	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Provision for food storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Repairs to staircases	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Repair or renewal of fireplaces	..	..		..	..	..	12
Cooking facilities provided and/or repaired	..			..	..	..	14
Repointing to brickwork	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Repair or replacement of floors	..	..		..	..	..	18
Provision of adequate ventilation			..	..	..	..	5
Provision of adequate lighting	..	..		..	..	..	7
Enlargement of window areas		..	..	..	..	..	7
Provision of fuel storage		..	..	..	..	..	4
Provision of dustbin	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Decoration	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Provision of hot water supply	..	..		..	..	..	38
Provision of baths and bathrooms	..	..		..	..	..	34
Provision of wash hand basins	..	..		..	..	..	36
Provision of damp proof course	..	..		..	..	..	3
Provision of adequate water supply	..			..	..	..	10

### DRAINAGE

Provision of septic tanks	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Provision of cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Repairs to eaves guttering		..	..	..	..	..	23
Sinks provided and/or repaired	..	..		..	..	..	16
Repairs to closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Provision of inspection covers	..	..		..	..	..	3
Provision of flush closets		..	..	..	..	..	43
Repairs to drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Provision of new drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	37





## HOUSING

I	1 (a)	Inspections of dwelling houses during the year. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects, (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	197
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose		1,170
	2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses , (included under sub-section 1 above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.. .. .	0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose		0
	3 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .	4
	4 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	.. .. .	69
II	Remedy of Defects during the year, without the service of formal notice.			
	1 (a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	.. .. .	66
III	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.			
	A	Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957.		
	1	Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring repairs	..	0
	2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices - a-- By Owners	.. .. .	3
		b - By Local Authority in default of owners	..	0
	B	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.		
	1	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.. .. .	0
	2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices - a - By Owners	.. .. .	0
		b - By Local Authority in default of owners	..	0



C	Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1957,	
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	0
2	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	8
3	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. ..	2
4	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	3
IV	Housing Act, 1957, Part 4, Overcrowding.	
A (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	1
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein ..	1
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	6
B (1)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. ..	1
C (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. ..	3
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .	20
D	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. .	0



### Comparison of Summary Figures with 1966

Properties requiring action under the Housing Acts were dealt with individually. It was only necessary to consider 2 Closing Orders during the year and other minor items of disrepair involving other properties were dealt with on an informal basis.

There has again been an average number of property owners taking advantage of one or other of the improvement grant schemes which has helped to maintain and, indeed, to improve housing conditions within the district.

Improvement schemes carried out on properties within the district have resulted in the provision of the following amenities :-

- 30 Ventilated food stores
- 38 Hot water supplies
- 34 Baths and Bathrooms
- 36 Wash hand basins
- 35 Water closets

Improvement of properties is one of the more satisfying aspects of public health work and, although each application involves considerable time with the applicant, architect and builder, the department considers the time well spent.

The following details relating to Improvement Grants may well be of interest. 48 applications for Grant were submitted and 1 was refused. 16 were in respect of Discretionary Grants and 32 in respect of Standard Grants. A total of £10,164 was paid in respect of completed Grant schemes and of this total £4,629 was in respect of 12 schemes completed with the aid of Discretionary Grants and £5,535 in respect of 28 schemes completed with the aid of Standard Grants.





## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Standard

	Owner/Occupiers	Tenanted
1. No. of applications Received	24	8
" " " Approved	24	8
" " " Refused	-	-
2. No. of dwellings improved	17	11

  

3. Amount paid in Grants	..	..	..	..	£5,535. 4. 6.
4. Average Grant per house	..	..	..	..	£198. 0. 0.
5. Amenities provided	(a) fixed bath				21
	(b) shower				1
	(c) wash hand basin				24
	(d) hot water supply (to any fittings)				23
	(e) Water closet (1) within dwelling				24
	(2) accessible from dwelling				-
	(f) food store				18

Discretionary

	Owner/Occupiers	Tenanted
1. No. of applications Received	3	13
" " " Approved	3	13
" " " Refused	-	-
2. No. of dwellings improved	4	8

  

3. Amount paid in Grants	..	..	..	..	£4,629. 0. 0.
4. Average Grant per house	..	..	..	..	£386. 0. 0.



### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits made by Inspectors    ..    ..    ..    ..    ..    134

Reports made to M.O.H. on cases of reported infectious  
diseases :-

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	12
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sonne Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	5
Salmonella Typhi-murium	..	..	..	..	..	1

In conjunction with the necessary investigations, further visits were required to the premises concerned and to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Hall to deliver bacteriological samples.



# FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Factories with mechanical power .. .. .	83
Factories without mechanical power .. .. .	1
Inspections of Factories with mechanical power .. .. .	31
Inspections of Factories without mechanical power	0
Inspections of Builders' sites for Sanitary Accommodation	8
Inspections of closed Factory premises or premises with no employees .. .. .	2
Factories with mechanical power - Informal Notices served	4
Factories with mechanical power - Informal Notices completed	4
Factories without mechanical power - Informal Notices served	0
Factories without mechanical power - Informal Notices completed	0
Statutory Notices served .. .. .	0

It has not been necessary to serve any formal notices under the Factories Act legislation. Minor defects noted were drawn to the occupiers attention on an informal basis and any requirements carried out without the necessity for further action.

A total of 18 visits were made during the year to Outworkers premises which proved satisfactory.





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1967  
FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MAIDSTONE  
IN THE COUNTY OF KENT

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises  (1)	Number on Register  (2)	Number of		
		Inspections  (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	83	31	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	8	8	-	-
TOTAL	92	39	2	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found  
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector  (4)	By H.M. Inspector  (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-



Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	5	-	1	-





## PART VIII OF THE ACT

## Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work  (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing)Making apparel)etc.,	4	-	-	-	-	-
)Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	-
)and	-	-	-	-	-	-
)Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, lace curtains and nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings	2	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron & Steel Anchors & Grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks						
Racquet and tennis balls						





PART VIII OF THE ACT (Cont'd.)

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Paper bags						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolates and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.	12					
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	18	-	-	-	-	-



## CARAVAN SITES

<u>Site</u>	<u>Proprietor or Owner</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Caravans</u>
Enterprise Caravan Site, East Farleigh	Mr. H. Smart	25
Hartridge Farm Caravan Site, East Farleigh	Mr. K.A. and Mrs. M.R.G. Chambers	110
The Retreat, Nettlestead	Mrs. P. Lamb and Mr. R.W. Lamb	75
Slaughterhouse Lane, Staplehurst	Mrs. G.N. Russell	2
Stilebridge, Marden	Maidstone R.D.C.	12

### Caravan Sites for Seasonal Use Only

Enterprise Caravan Site, East Farleigh	Mr. H. Smart	15
Medway Wharf Site, Nettlestead	Mr. A.C. Buffery, Medway Wharf Ltd.	10
Twyford Boatyard Site, Yalding	Mr. D.S. Chuter, 102, Blithdale Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2.	18
Hampstead Cottage Caravan Park, Yalding	Mr. C.H. Sparrow	120
Riverside Cafe, Twyford Bridge, Yalding	Mrs. R.C. Morris, 22, Kings Road, Fleet, Hants.	2
The Anchor Inn, Yalding	Mr. D. Brenchley and Mrs. M. Brenchley	3

### Summary of data

Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	128
Number of licensed sites	..	..	..	..	..	10
Applications for licences	..	..	..	..	..	1
Applications for licences refused	..	..	..	..	..	0

Routine visits have been made to all registered sites at various times throughout the year. No adverse conditions were found to exist and the operation of the sites concerned did not contravene any of the Council's conditions attached to the site licences issued.

The Maidstone R.D.C. caravan site for travellers at Stilebridge gave no cause for complaint during the year. Some difficulty has arisen with the need for more frequent service to the cesspool on the site and this must be attributed to greater use of the amenities provided.





### HOP PICKERS' CAMPS

Total number of Hop Pickers' Camps in use	..	38
Number of huts in use (estimated)	.. ..	447 + 58 caravans
Estimated number of pickers	.. .. .	944
Number of inspections	.. .. .	60

Each of the camps in use were inspected during the course of their occupation and no particular problems arose during the picking season.

As in the past few years, once again the total number of pickers involved has tended to decrease and there has also been a tendency for some of the pickers to provide their own accommodation in the form of caravans.

In one instance it was necessary to require the owner to evacuate pickers after the close of the season i.e., 30th November, whilst in another camp some works of repair to the sanitary accommodation were required prior to occupation.

Government decrees requiring local authorities to avoid unnecessary visits to farm land during the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom were observed and, in consequence, the total number of inspections were somewhat reduced in comparison with last year's visits.

### CLEAN AIR ACT

During the year complaints arose from 3 sources and routine observations were made. In 1 instance it was necessary for the Council to take legal action and, as a result, an order prohibiting any further nuisance by the firm involved was made by the Court. Although only 3 complaints were received, a total of 61 visits were necessary.

### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT

At the present time there are 7 establishments registered and 17 visits to these premises were made during the year. In particular, before the renewal of any registration, special attention is paid to the conditions under which animals are boarded.





## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

### Number of Food Premises in the District

Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Food Shops (excluding Butchers)			..	..	..	..	94
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total							<u>182</u>

### Number of Visits and Inspections

Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	71
Food Shops (excluding Butchers)			..	..	..	..	199
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Total							<u>413</u>

Further increase in the number of inspections over last year's figures has been possible. Advice on the handling and storage of foodstuffs continues to be the prime purpose of visiting and it has been noted that the standard of hygiene and cleanliness in food premises has been maintained.

Isolated cases of bad practice result in frequent visits to the premises and it is pleasant to record that the individuals concerned respond to persuasion and advice, thereby obviating the necessity of legal action.

### SHOPS ACT

Number of Shops (including Public Houses) .. .. . 221

During the year 1967, 102 inspections were made of shops within the district to check compliance with the provisions of the Act.

### Contaminated Foodstuff

During the year 6 complaints concerning contaminated foodstuff were brought to the attention of the department. The nature of the complaints were as follows :-

- (1) Glass in milk bottle
- (2) Mould in milk bottle
- (3) Sugar - bitter taste
- (4) Wrapped cake - mould
- (5) Yogurt - wasp in container
- (6) Dirt in milk bottle

In each instance the circumstances and causes were fully investigated and reported to the Public Health Committee. No legal proceedings were instigated, but in each case the manufacturer concerned received a warning letter.



### MILK SUPPLIES

Number of registered distributors	..	..	..	..	36
Number of registered dairies	..	..	..	..	Nil

The function of sampling milk supplies at retailers' premises is the responsibility of the Kent County Council.

Statistics submitted by the Kent County Council, contained elsewhere in this report, show that 25 samples were obtained from retailers within the Maidstone Rural District. Of this total 23 were satisfactory, whilst the 2 unsatisfactory samples were caused by faulty machinery which the dairy subsequently rectified.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

Inspections under the above legislation relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing, seating arrangements and safety provisions, have been carried out and accounted for a considerable amount of time in the working programme of one of the Inspectors. No accidents were reported to the department in the year under review and a copy of the statutory report sent to the Ministry of Labour follows :-



THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963	TABLE A  Registrations and general inspections	TOTALS  Offices  Retail shops  Wholesale Shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to the public, canteens  Fuel storage depots	18 2 15 1 - -	100 18 72 4 6 -	70 9 54 4 3 -
		(1)  Class of premises	(2)  Number of premises registered during the year	(3)  Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4)  Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year

TABLE B - Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises

191

	Class of workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
TABLE C  Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace	Offices	84
	Retail shops	222
	Wholesale depts., warehouses	19
	Catering establishments open to the public	16
	Canteens	-
	Fuel storage depots	-
	Total	341
	Total Males	136
	Total Females	205





TABLE D - Exemptions

Class of premises  (1)	No. of exemptions current at 31st December  (2)	No. of exemptions granted or extended during the year  (5)  Part 1 - Space (Sec.5(2))	No. of applica- tions refused or exemptions withdrawn during the year  (4)	No. of cases in Cols. (3) and (4) where employees opposed appli- cation  (5)	Appeals to Court against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption	
					No. made (6)	No. allowed (7)
Part II - Temperature (Sec.6)						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						
Part III - Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.9)						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						
Part IV - Washing Facilities (Sec.10)						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						



# SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of licensed Slaughterhouses .. .. 2  
 Number of premises cleansed during the year .. .. 2

## MEAT INSPECTION

<u>Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>No. of Animals Slaughtered</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
West End, Marden .. ..	1,025	74%
High Street, Staplehurst .. ..	369	26%
Total	<u>1,394</u>	<u>100%</u>

Carcases Inspected and Condemned	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	TOTAL
Number killed	237	-	1	693	463	1,394
Number <u>not</u> inspected	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	-	-	58	53	143
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3	3
<u>Cysticerci</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	1	-	2
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

All carcasses examined have been for the trade of the butchers owning the slaughterhouses. The customary high standard and quality has been maintained and, as in previous years, co-operation between the owners and the department has been on an amicable basis.

Government requirements i.e., 100% inspection of all carcasses slaughtered, has again been achieved without the necessity of involving overtime by the inspectorate.





MEAT INSPECTION

Reason for Condemnation

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Completely condemned</u>	<u>Partially condemned</u>
Actinobacillosis	0	1
Abscesses	0	10
Pleurisy	0	11
Ascaris Lumbricoides	0	15
Pneumonia	0	13
Pericarditis	0	13
Parasitic Infection	0	53
Cirrhosis	0	13
Cysticercus Bovis	0	1
Peritonitis	0	1
Congestion	0	5
Fractures and Bruising	0	3
Liver Fluke	0	8
Cysticercus Ovis	0	1
Tuberculosis	0	3
Melanosis	0	3
Mastitis	0	1

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

All registered plants within the area were inspected during the year and no complaints concerning their operation have been received. A total of 25 visits was made during the year to ensure that the operators met their obligations under this legislation. Particular attention was given to these plants during the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom.





FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling  
Officers within the MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT  
during the year ended 31st December, 1967

	<u>Satis-</u> <u>factory</u>	<u>Unsatis-</u> <u>factory</u>
Milk .. .. .	23	2
Butter, margarine, lard, cooking fats, cheese (including processed cheese) ..	1	-
Tinned meats, meat, fish, fish and meat pastes .. .	5	-
Sugar, sugar confectionery, flour confectionery, chocolate products, cereals ..	5	1
Tea, coffee, cocoa, beverages, minerals, cordials .. .	2	-
Jams, preserves, honey, jellies .. .	5	-
Dried fruit, raw fruit, vegetables, tinned fruit and vegetables .. .	8	-
Pickles, sauces, vinegar, condiments .. .	5	-
Drugs, medicines .. .	6	2
Beer, wines, spirits .. .	11	-
Miscellaneous .. .	8	1
Total ..	<u>79</u>	<u>6</u>

Unsatisfactory Samples

Cold and Influenza Powders

Declaration of ingredients not clearly legible. Manufacturers will reposition declaration.

Iodine Tincture B.P.

Iodine and Potassium Iodide in excess of B.P. requirements. Trouble caused by evaporation from faulty cap. Manufacturers have introduced a new plastic sealing ring.

Homogenised Milk (2 samples)

Contained deposit of calcium carbonate. Caused by faulty clarifier. Rectified by dairy.

Turog Loaf

Affected by mould growths. Manufacturer and retailer cautioned..

Real Fruit Yogurt

Contained three lengths of iron wire. Manufacturers cautioned.



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 (Cont'd.)

ICE CREAM

<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Test Group</u>	<u>Pathogenic organisms cultivated</u>
14	I	0
9	II	0
-	III	0
-	IV	0

A cross sample of ice creams sold within the area have been obtained during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Results listed above show that all samples fell within Groups I and II which can be considered satisfactory.



## RODENT CONTROL

### Summary of Inspections and Surveys made under Rodent Control

<u>Properties other than Sewers</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	8,608	1,056
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	650	28
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	495	28
(ii) Mice	83	28
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	198	6
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	108	0
(ii) Mice	59	5

Rodent control during the year involved the treatment of private dwellings, farms and local authority's own premises i.e., refuse tip and sewage disposal works.

The Ministry certificate authorising this authority to dispense with the test baiting of sewers for a 3 year period meant that in the year under review no baiting took place.

The contract system, which some farmers within the area prefer, has been continued and the income from this source has amounted to £158. 16. 3.





Birth-rates, Death-rates and Analysis of Mortality in the year, 1967

Area	Rate per 1,000 population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population				Rate per 1,000	
		All causes	Tuberculosis	Cancer of lung	Other cancer	Live Births	Related Births
	Live births					Total deaths under 1 year	Stillbirths
England and Wales	17.2	11.2	0.03	0.58	1.69	18.3	14.8
Hollingbourn R.D.	20.84	10.70	-	0.57	1.99	13.80	13.62
Maidstone R.D.	23.39	8.88	0.03	0.67	1.50	5.22	6.92
Malling R.D.	20.84	12.41	0.07	0.58	1.72	14.27	17.52
Maidstone Borough	18.49	11.29	0.01	0.45	1.56	25.14	9.13
County of Kent	17.41	11.83	0.03	0.62	1.70	16.97	13.42



# GENERAL SUMMARY

Estimated resident population, 1967	..	..	26,490
Area (in acres)	..	..	34,487
Density	..	..	0.768
Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 population	..		
Crude	..		21.66
Corrected	..		23.39
Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population			
Crude	..		11.85
Corrected	..		8.88
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Births	..	..	574
Deaths	..	..	315
Excess of births over deaths	127	132	259
Tuberculosis death rate -			
Pulmonary	..	..	0.03
Non-pulmonary	..	..	Nil
Cancer death rate per 1,000 population	..		2.17



# INDEX

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Animal Boarding Establishments Act .. ..	38
Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality ..	48
Cancer .. ..	13
Caravan Sites .. ..	37
Clean Air Act .. ..	38
Comparison of Summary Figures with 1966 ..	29
Cesspool Emptying .. ..	24
Deaths per month in each Parish .. ..	17
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957 ..	44
Drainage and Sanitation .. ..	24
Factories and Workplaces .. ..	32
Food and Drugs Act .. ..	45, 46
Food Poisoning .. ..	14
Food Premises - Inspection and Supervision of ..	39, 40
General Provision of Health Services .. ..	6
General Statistics - Drainage .. ..	26
General Statistics - Housing .. ..	26
General Statistics - Housing Defects .. ..	26
General Statistics - Improvement Grants .. ..	29
General Statistics - Infectious Diseases .. ..	31
General Summary .. ..	49
Hop Pickers' Camps .. ..	38
Housing .. ..	27, 28
Ice Cream .. ..	46
Immunisation .. ..	10
Improvement Grants .. ..	29, 30
Infant Mortality .. ..	15
Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases .. ..	
Analysis in Age Groups .. ..	7
Monthly Distribution .. ..	8
Meat Inspection .. ..	43, 44
Meat Inspection - Reason for Condemnation .. ..	44
Members of the Public Health Committee .. ..	1
Milk Supplies .. ..	40
National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 .. ..	14
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act .. ..	40, 41, 42
Poliomyelitis Vaccination .. ..	9
Presentation of Annual Report by M.O.H. .. ..	2, 3, 4
Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953 ..	14
Public Health Officers .. ..	1
Return by M.O.H. to H.M. Inspector of Factories ..	33, 34, 35, 36
Rodent Control .. ..	47
Refuse and Public Cleansing Services .. ..	23, 24
Sanitary Circumstances in the Area .. ..	18
Shops - Inspection and Supervision of .. ..	39, 40
Slaughterhouses .. ..	43
Smallpox Vaccination .. ..	11
Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area .. ..	5
Summary of Inspections .. ..	25
Total Deaths 1967 .. ..	16
Tuberculosis .. ..	12
Vital Statistics - Extracts from .. ..	5
Water Supplies .. ..	19, 20, 21, 22







